

THE

Christian History;

Containing Accounts of the Propagation and Revival
of Religion in *England Scotland and America.*

To be publish'd *Weekly.*

Saturday APRIL 2. 1743. N^o. 5.

Mr. ROBE's *Narrative continued.*

WHEN the first extraordinary Awakening of Numbers was in this Congregation, tho' I knew the *Objections* made against the *Outcries* at *Cambuslang*, and the *bodily Distresses* many were under there, and was satisfied in my own Mind, that there was *nothing* in these *Objections*; yet when I heard these *Outcries*, and saw the *bodily Distresses* some of the Awakened were under, it proved *at first very uneasy to me*, it appeared *unpleasant* *yea even shocking*: I therefore resolved, that as soon as any fell under remarkable Distress, they should be *carried out of the Congregation* into a *separate Place* I had provided for them, and *appointed some of the Elders* to carry them off accordingly. I also pray'd, that if it were the holy Will of God he would bring them to a Sight of their Sin and Danger, *without these bodily Distresses*, which were so unpleasant to behold, so distressing to the People themselves, and offensive to several. The LORD in a little Time discovered unto me *my Error and Imprudence* in this. For after I had conversed for sometime with the Distress'd, I found the Distress of their Minds to be so great, as they *could not* but naturally have such Effects upon their Bodies. I enquired of many of them, *What they apprehended and felt in their Minds before they fell a Trembling, cried out or fainted?* They told me, *That they were under dreadful Apprehensions of the terrible Wrath of GOD due to them for their Sins, especially for their slighting of*

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JESUS

JESUS CHRIST by *Unbelief*. This View made what was before shocking easy to me. I look'd upon it as the Effect of a *due Regard* to the *Wrath* of GOD, which Sinners in a State of Nature are under and lyabls to. I beheld them as Enemies to the King of Glory, falling under him riding in his Glory and Majesty, and making his Arrows sharply pierce their Hearts. I found also, that the Congregation instead of being disturbed with their *Outcries*, were more disturbed by *carrying them off*; and the People's Attention much lessened in hearing the Word. Several left the Place of Hearing, and went where the Distress'd were to gaze upon them. It was also a *considerable Inconvenience* when there were no Ministers here, to direct and comfort the Distressed, that they were left with those who could give them no Assistance. The Number of the Awakened were much diminished, and came soon to be very few. I observed that some were awakened while they had the Distressed in their Sight, and heard Exhortations given in the Place where they were convened. From this I was perswaded, that the *Example of others* under spiritual Terrors and Distress, was one of the *Means* the LORD was pleased to *make Use of* to bring Beholders to consider their own State and Way; and to attend more carefully to what they heard from the Word of GOD. Several of the Awakened told me, that they were brought to a Concern about their Souls, by such a Reasoning as this within themselves; "These People under so much Distress, are far from being so great Sinners as I have been and am: How stupid and hard hearted then am I who am altogether unconcern'd? And if they be afraid of the *Wrath of GOD*, I have far greater Reason to be so." There appeared to me to be nothing more unreasonable in making use of the *Example* of the Distress'd, to make other secure Sinners afraid of Sin and the *Wrath* of GOD, than there is in the LAW *punishing Crimes publickly* to make others afraid to commit them. I was also convinced that it was *sinful* in me to *wish* or *desire*, that the infinitely wise and severeign LORD, should order his own Work in any other Way than what pleased himself. There were also some Brethren, who did not think the Way I had taken, to *remove the Distress'd*, to be the best; and therefore after some Weeks Trial I altered it. I am now of Opinion, after all that I have seen and experienced relating to this Work, that it is *best* to leave the Distress'd to their Liberty, and in the Congregation if they incline, until it be dismissed.

No *Mean*, which Providence puts in our Hand is to be omitted, that hath a Tendency to awaken secure Sinners.

I received a beautiful *Letter* from a *Gentlewoman* at some Miles distance from *London*, relating to *this Part* of my *Method*: She had seen a *Letter* of mine, printed at *London*, wherein I declared my Resolution to remove the Distress'd out of the Congregation. This occasioned her writing to me. It came to my Hand after I had chang'd the foresaid Way. This appears to me to be the most proper Place to insert *this fine Letter*, which I am perswaded will be entertaining to my Readers.

Great-Gransden, near Caxton Huntingdon-shire,

Rev. Sir,

July 11. 1742.

“ I beg you'll pardon my Boldness in giving you the Trouble of a Line from me. The Occasion is this: I read the last Week, with very great Delight (in the *Weekly History* of the Progress of the Gospel, printed at *London*) the Account of GOD's wonderful Work in the Conversion of Souls, which your Eyes have seen of late. And also, with Concern, did I read the Account of your Care to guard against Objections, by removing the Wounded that could not forbear crying, unto your Barn; and resolving to have a Sermon but once a Week. And tho' a deep Sense of my own Littleness, Vileness and Unworthiness forbids me to take any Notice hereof unto you; yet am I encouraged hereto, inasmuch as the superiour Members in CHRIST's Body, can't say to the Inferior, no not to the Meanest of all, *I have no need of thee*. Let me intreat you therefore, to put a favourable Construction upon this Freedom, that a Stranger useth with you. A *Stranger*, Did I say? So I am Sir, as being unknown in the Flesh. But blessed be GOD we that were sometime afar off, are made nigh to GOD, and to each other by the Blood of CHRIST. Being then in this Respect, no more Strangers and Foreigners, but fellow Citizens with the Saints, and of the Household of God; permit me tho' in another Room, to have a tittle Paper converse with you about our LORD's Family Affairs.

“ Dear Sir, The Triumphs of the REDEEMER, the once slain, but now reigning LAMB, in the Conquests of his Love and Power over his redeemed ones, that are stout Hearted and far from Righteousness, are exceeding delightful to all that love Him. They cannot but say, *Ride prof-*

" *perously upon the Word of Truth ! Worthy is the LAMB !*
 " *And let the whole Earth be filled with his Glory ! Amen, and*
 " *Amen.* My Soul rejoiceth with poor Scotland, for the
 " LORD's loving Kindness towards you, and that the same
 " happy Work, which was begun when the dear Mr. *White-*
 " *field* was with you last, being carried on by others of the
 " Servants of our precious LORD, increaseth, and reacheth
 " even as far as unto you. Oh Sir, I doubt not, but filled
 " with Wonder you often say, *Whence is it that my Lord should*
 " *come to me ! that he should thus visit us !* Indeed Sir, 'tis a
 " Wonder of God's free, sovereign Grace, ; that is and
 " will be justly the Matter of your present and eternal Adora-
 " tion. Our LORD's Voice to you is, *Rejoice greatly O*
 " *Daughter of Zion, for lo, I come, and will dwell in the Midst*
 " *of thee.* Oh may Zion's KING reign and prosper ! May
 " he be seen among you, in his Glory and Majesty ! and may
 " Thousands of stout hearted Sinners, become his willing
 " People in the Day of his Power ! When CHRIST brings
 " in his other Sheep, his Doves in Flocks to their Windows ;
 " this is a *Work* that fills Heaven and Earth, God, Angels
 " and Saints with Joy ; a *Work* that fills the World with
 " Wonder, and wicked Men and Devils with Envy, Rage
 " and Contempt. But yet it is a *Work*, in which the Glory
 " and Majesty of the GODHEAD shines ! and tho' the united
 " Powers of Darkness, tho' Earth and Hell combine against
 " it, they shall never prevail. For GOD has set HIS KING
 " upon his holy Hill of *Zion* : And reign he must, until all
 " his People are saved to the uttermost, and all his Foes made
 " his Footstool. *Amen. Hallelujah !*

" SINCE then, my dear Brother, the KING of Glory, the
 " Prince of Grace, hath blessed you ; not only with the *hea-*
 " *ring* of the coming of his Kingdom, but also with the *Sight*
 " of its Majesty and Glory ; let me humbly intreat you to
 " beware that you don't displease him. I fear *your removing*
 " *the Wounded by his Arrows* (as he rides on his Throne) *into*
 " *a Corner* will do it, and provoke him to depart from you.
 " If the KING of Glory, descends in his Majesty among you,
 " and strikes secure Sinners with the Terrors of his Wrath,
 " whereby they are made, from a felt Sense of their perishing
 " Condition, to cry out, *What must we do to be saved ?* Why
 " must these Trophies of his Victory be removed out of the
 " *Assembly ?* This Cry is what was common in the *Apostles*
 " Time,

“ Time, and no doubt will be so again, and much more
 “ abundant, as the Glory of the latter Day approacheth. If
 “ it is the LORD’s Pleasure to Work this Way; let us with
 “ Joy adore his Wisdom herein, and not be ashamed of it,
 “ or as if we were endeavouring to hide it from the wonder-
 “ ing Multitude. No, Tho’ some should contradict and
 “ blaspheme. Our LORD’s *Work* is honourable and glorious,
 “ and the Joy of his Friends; however despicable and hate-
 “ ful it may be to his Enemies. CHRIST will plead his own
 “ Cause; *And Wisdom is justified of her Children.* And there
 “ is no End, nor can be any good Fruit of seeking to obviate
 “ the *Objections* of an ungodly World, and the Company of
 “ carnal, worldly Professors. Their *Cavils* will be innume-
 “ rable. Like those of the *Pharisees* of old; whose Prejudice
 “ was unconquerable, and by all the Evidence of divine Pow-
 “ er, which was displayed in our LORD’s Miracles: For still
 “ they had, and these will have, something or other to carp at.
 “ Therefore let us that love the LORD JESUS, rejoice to see
 “ him work in his own Way, altho’ by the Power of his Word
 “ He wounds Sinners so deeply, as to force from them a very
 “ grievous Cry in the open Congregation. Our dear LORD
 “ may have a fourfold Design herein; First, The Display of
 “ his omnipotent Power, in conquering the stout-hearted, to the
 “ Glory of his Name, and the Joy of his Children. 2dly, The
 “ awakening of others of his chosen yet dead in Sin. 3dly, The
 “ hiding the inside Glory of his Work, by the Meanness of its out-
 “ ward Appearance, from the carnal Eye, and the leaving those
 “ his implacable Enemies who have sinned against the Light, to be
 “ judicially blinded; and so to fill up the Measure of their Sin,
 “ in despising and opposing his Work, and thereby to fit themselves
 “ for their righteous Condemnation at the great Day. 4thly,
 “ The bearing Witness before all even the most hardened Sinners,
 “ of the Misery of all Men by Sin; and the foreboding to them
 “ as in a Specimen the Terrors of that Day, when he’ll come in
 “ the Clouds, and every Eye shall see him, and all the Kindreds
 “ of the Earth shall wail because of him. And if these Things,
 “ Sir, should be intended; I humbly think, ’tis most Wis-
 “ dom, not to remove the Wounded into a Corner; and there-
 “ by hide the Work of the LORD, when he thus makes bare
 “ his Arm: And that so to do will displease him.

“ And as the distressed Souls are numerous, and their
 “ Distress, their Fears of eternal Death, so great; I hum-
 “ bly

“ bly conceive, that there is an *extraordinary Call* for the
 “ Preaching of the Gospel, the Words of this Life, in order
 “ to relieve and comfort them, to draw them on to believe
 “ in JESUS, to their present Joy, and everlasting Salvation.

“ Oh dear Sir, Be not afraid to preach CHRIST's Gospel,
 “ nor to let it be preach'd, to perishing Sinners, if it was
 “ possible *from Morning to Evening, in Season and out of Sea-*
 “ *son* : There can come no bad Consequences of that. Pro-
 “ claim the Glory of CHRIST's Person, the Fulness & Free-
 “ nefs of his Salvation, his Almightynefs, and Willingnefs to
 “ save Sinners to the uttermost ; that so the Wounded may be
 “ healed, and the Distressed set their Hope in GOD. To deal
 “ with these Souls *in private*, for Instruction and Consolation
 “ whom the LORD hath converted *in publick* ; I humbly think
 “ is not to follow the LORD in the Way which he goes before
 “ you. Thus Sir, having freely imparted my Thoughts, I
 “ leave them entirely unto the LORD, and desire he may direct
 “ you to act as shall be most for his Glory. Wishing all Pro-
 “ perity : And requesting your Prayers : I am,

Dear Sir, &c.

As to preaching the Word of GOD upon *Work-Days* I re-
 solved at first only to have it upon the *Wednesday*, which we
 accordingly had. Some Days we had *three Sermons*, sometimes
two, and at other Times *one*, as the LORD provided Instruments.
 Thus we continued for *some Weeks* : I observed an uncom-
 mon earnest Inclination in the People of all Sorts to hear the
 Word of GOD ; I could not reasonably think that this would
 last long, and therefore I thought myself warranted, from the
 Example of our LORD JESUS CHRIST to have the Word
more frequently preached to them while they were so pressing
 and eager to attend unto it. What determined me further to
 this was, that the Sword of the Spirit was at no Time now
 unsheathed, but some were cut to the Quick by it : As also
 where *weekly Sermons* were not set up or but seldom kept, few Peo-
 ple were awakened in other Congregations and this good Work
 went but slowly on. I therefore embraced *every Opportunity*
 of *stranger Ministers* coming to the Place to give Sermons to the
 People ; and that they who needed rather a Bridle than a Spur
 in hearing, might not be hindered in their necessary worldly
 Affairs, these Sermons were *ordinarily* in the *Evening* when
 the Days Work was near an End. *These occasional Sermons*
 were

were never without some good Fruit in awakening secure Sinners, and also in comforting some who had been formerly awakened. I have never heard to this Day of any Parents or Masters in this Congregation, who complained that their Children or Servants were drawn away from their Duty by these Means. Yea this very Day I made Inquiry of some *Husbandmen* living in different Parts of the Parish, if now when *Harvest* was begun they observed, any Part of the Work and Labour in the Parish undone or farther behind, through the frequent Attendance upon publick Ordinances, or by the Means of the many awakened and spiritually distressed, in the Congregation; They replied that there was no such Thing to be seen; as also that they had heard the poorest say that their Work went better on than ordinary, and that they found not any Lack. They observed also that their *Hay Harvest*, which is a considerable Labour in this Parish was got a third Part of Time sooner over than ordinary, & noticed the singular Goodness of God therein.

I received a *Letter* about the Beginning of this Work, wrote with great good Sense and Piety; which contributed much to my having *Sermons more frequently* than I had design'd at first, taking great Care at the same Time that *second Table Duties* should not be neglected or hindered. I shall not grudge to Copy a good Part of the *foresaid Letter*.

May 22d. 1742.

My very dear Friend,

“ I Return you my hearty Thanks for your most acceptable
 “ Letter of the 21st which I got this Morning. I have
 “ look'd on the Affair of *Cambuslang*, from the Beginning, as
 “ a very glorious Work of God, and my daily Prayer about
 “ it, has been, that the remarkable Down-pouring of the
 “ HOLY GHOST, there, might as the Cloud like the Man's
 “ Hand, quickly overspread the whole Hemisphere. We
 “ must reckon upon it, that where the LORD CHRIST is,
 “ in so glorious a Manner, making Conquests; Satan will
 “ be at work too; that busy, active malicious Spirit will be
 “ doing all he can to dispraise the Work of God, and furnish
 “ the Wicked, and the Lukewarm with something to say against
 “ it: Too great Care therefore cannot be taken to avert Re-
 “ proach and Calumny. Yet at the same Time, the fear of
 “ Man, must not be so far given Way to, as to determine
 “ you to leave any Thing undone which may forward the
 “ good Work. If it was a Ground of People's cavilling at
 “ *Cambuslang*

“ *Cambuslang* that they had Sermon *every Day*, and thereby
 “ *first Table Duties* juttled with the *Second*, it possibly may be
 “ going too far on the other Side to have but *one Sermon-Day*
 “ with you in the *Week*: while the *Wind blows fair* croud on
 “ *all the Sail you can*; but I hope the *LORD* whose Work it
 “ is, will direct you to what is best---I have sent it to---And
 “ some more such, who will in secret, in private and in pub-
 “ lic, bless *Zion's God* for these glorious Streams unexpectedly
 “ and surprisngly pouring out on Spots of his Vineyard; and
 “ join in Cries to him not to stop till he has watered all the
 “ Garden.

“ The Account of the *Cambuslang* Affair, last published, I
 “ think, is put together with great Discretion, and gives
 “ no Handle to the Enemies of Religion to work upon. If
 “ no Advantage is given them, and they will notwithstanding,
 “ fall on the head Corner-Stone, 'tis their own Fault.

“ I hope the Work with you will continue, & that you will
 “ from Time to Time lay hold of a few Moments to be as
 “ good as your Word in giving me an Account of it's Pro-
 “ gress.----I offer my Respects to good Mr. *M^r Laurin*:
 “ may much of God be with you and him, and all the
 “ Lovers, all the Helpers forward of the Work of our dear
 “ REDEEMER. I am most Affectionately,” &c.

As to the *Doctrines* I preached in the Congregation or else-
 where; they were a Mixture of the *Law* and the *Gospel* as
 much as possible in the *same Sermon*, and I observed such Com-
 posures most blessed of God. The formerly Converted, and
 the Awakened who had made Progress, I perceived were most
 affected with the sweet Truths of the *Gospel*. I have seen the
 Congregation in Tears, and crying out when the *Law* of
 Grace from *Mount-Zion*, without any expres Mixture of the
 Terrors of the *Law*, was preached. 'Tis true indeed several
 of the Awakened, have had their spiritual Distress increased
 thereby, as also some of the Secure have been awakened; but
 then it was from their being convinced, that they had as yet no
 Interest in these glorious Blessings, and so were miserable, and
 that it would be the worst Part of their eternal Misery to be de-
 prived of them! And thus it was as terrible to them to hear
Heaven preached of as *Hell*; seeing they saw themselves shut
 out from it by their Unbelief. (To be continued.)

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